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In connection with application number 10/013,047, applicant: Chaffee and Loper, the following correspondence:

Revised figures (2 plates)

Response to the office action dated 17 July 2003

was mailed to the Commissioner of Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia, 22313-1450 by first class mail to addressee on 13 October 2003 by the undersigned.

Ronald P. Brockman 33,572



Ronald P. Brockman
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11 October 2003

Attention Mark Spisich
Commissioner for Patents
United States Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 1450
Arlington, Virginia 22313-1450

Re: Patent application: 10/013,047
Filing Date: 12/07/01
Inventor: Chaffee, L. and Loper, T.
Group Art: 1744

Dear Mr. Spisich:

In response to the office action of 17 July 2003 the applicants request that application be amended as follows:

On the Title Page

Amend page 1 at line below the title by deleting:

"Cross Reference: Provisional application 60/251,806, filed 12/08/2000"

and substituting with "This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. provisional application Ser. No. 60/251,806, filed 12/08/2000."

In the specifications

On page 2 line 27 (in paragraph 3 the Detailed Description of the Invention, delete "wing" from line 3 such that "a wing nut 47" in sentence three of the paragraph becomes "a nut 47".

Amend line 2 on page 3 by replacing "18" with "17".

Amend line 5 on page 3 by capitalizing the "p" of "pyrex" and adding "glass, such as" between "of" and "Pyrex glass" and capitazing the "s" of silicon in line 8.

Replacement paragraphs 3 and 4 of the specifications are as follows:

Referring to Fig. 2 the hinged cover 22 is substantially rectangular in shape. It is hinged at one side 41 and at the opposite side 42 of the hinged cover 22 is a slot 43 capable of releasably receiving a latch 46 shown in Fig. 4. The latch may be locked in place with a ~~wing~~ nut 47. In a

preferred embodiment the cover has an access opening 13. The cover 22 is countersunk on its underside (the side facing the interior of the housing 6) at the periphery of the access opening 13 so as to be capable of receiving the sleeve element 17 with the encased transparent element 16.

Referring to Fig. 3 and 4 the hinged cover 22 is pivotally attached to the housing 6 by an attachment means 48. The hinged cover 22 has a central opening 13. The transparent element 16 is preferably made of glass, such as ~~Pyrex~~ Pyrex glass, and is housed within the sleeve element 17, the sleeve element 17 having a circumferential side wall 18 and an upper lip 19 capable of receiving the transparent element 16. In a preferred embodiment the transparent element 16 is held within the sleeve element 17 by glue, such as ~~silicon~~ Silicon glue, which is known in the art. At the access port 11 the housing 6 is countersunk to form a ledge 25. In operation the glass cover element 16 rests on an O-ring 20 which sits on the ledge 25 of the housing 6 to cover the access opening 13. When the hinged cover 22 is engaged it is capable of holding the transparent element 16 with its sleeve 17 in place over the access port 11. A strainer screen 28 capable of allowing fluid to pass, but not cleaning balls (not shown), covers the outlet port 10. The latch 46 is fixedly attached to the housing 6. In another preferred embodiment the latch 46 is seated in a recess 49 in the wall of the cylindrical housing 6. Similarly the hinge 48 of the hinged cover 22 may be seated in a similar recess in the wall of the housing 6 across from the latch recess 49.

In the Drawings:

Substitute the enclosed plates for the previously submitted plates. Fig. 1 was amended according to the objections of the examiner.

In the claims:

We claim:

1 - 6 (canceled)

7 (new): In a cleaning system for cleaning fluid conducting tubing, which uses balls made up of spongy material, a ball collector comprising:

a cylindrical metallic housing with inside and outside walls, having a sealed bottom, an access port and inlet and outlet ports, the inlet and outlet ports being aligned with each other on opposite

sides of the housing and capable of receiving the fluid conducting tubing, the outlet port having a strainer screen, the strainer screen being in and covering the outlet port and capable of allowing fluid to pass while retaining the balls made up of spongy material,

a hinged cover for the access port, the hinged cover comprising a metallic frame having a central opening which is covered by a transparent element, the transparent element being encased in a metallic sleeve and being a glass member capable of covering the central opening and having a means to hold the glass member and sleeve in place within the cover,

an O-ring capable of forming a seal between the cylindrical housing and the glass element of the hinged cover,

a means to attach the hinged cover to the housing, and

a means to lock the hinged cover releasably in a closed position.

8 (new): The ball collector of claim 7 wherein the O-ring rests on a countersunk circumferential ledge around the access port of the cylindrical housing, the ledge being capable of receiving the sleeve and encased glass member.

9 (new): The ball collector of claim 8 wherein the means to attach and means to lock the hinged cover are attached to the housing by means of recesses in the outer wall.

10 (new): The ball collector of claim 9 wherein the cylindrical housing is one-quarter to one-half inch thick.

REMARKS

The examiner objected to the form of the reference to claimed priority. That was rewritten to overcome the objection.

The specifications were objected to because of use of trade names and "18" was used instead of "17" on page 3, line 2. The uses of trade names were amended and "18" was replaced with "17" on page 3, line 2. Reference to #47 in the specifications as a "wing nut" was objected to. "Wing" was deleted from "wing nut" in line 3 of the third paragraph in the specifications.

The drawings were objected to on the basis that the second set of drawings, which were intended to replace the informal drawings originally submitted, contained new material. While the new material was insubstantial, the drawings were amended to overcome these objections. Fig. 1 was redrawn to delete the showing of the bottom of the housing as a separate element, the interface

between inlet and outlet ports was modified, the flared nature of the opening in the lid was removed. The interface between the screen and outlet was redrawn according to the original figure 1. The drawings were also objected to because they did not include reference to some numbers. Numbers "1", "15", "48" and "42" were added to the figures. In figure 2 the bolt shown was changed to show only the head as shown in the original informal drawings and the number "42" was added to indicate the end 42 which is opposite to end 41 in the cover 22. Fig. 4 was amended to change "48" to "43" and "13" to "16". The changes correct errors in Fig. 4. Element 47 was redrawn to reflect a winged character and it is labeled as "47" as in the original drawing.

The claims were rewritten to overcome the objections of indefiniteness. Claims 1 through 6 were withdrawn and claims 3 through 6 were replaced with claims 7 through 10 to include the limitations of claims 1 and 2 and overcome the objections of indefiniteness. They were amended along the lines suggested by the examiner.

In view of the above remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the new claims are respectfully requested.

Dated: 11 October 2003

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald P. Brockman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ronald P. Brockman, Reg. No. 33, 572



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